



SAN ANTONIO

POLICE

Office of the Chief of Police, Police Media Services, 214 W. Nueva, San Antonio, Texas 78207
Office Telephone (210) 207-7579, Fax (210) 207-7567, Police Dispatcher (210) 207-7484

CONTACT: Matthew Porter

DATE: July 6, 2010

RELEASE NO: 10-192

Media Advisory ***Watch Your Car Month***

Who: S.A.P.D's Vehicle Crimes Unit -
Regional Auto Crimes Team (ReACT)

When: Wednesday, July 7th
10:00 a.m.

Where: **HEB**
10660 FM 471 & Loop 1604

What: ReACT will be promoting Watch Your Car month.

July is Texas Watch Your Car ® month. Why July? July is one of the highest auto theft months of the year. As temperatures rise across Texas during the summer months, drivers need to take extra precautions to keep their vehicle safe.

"You should think twice before leaving your keys in the ignition with your engine running in an effort to keep your vehicle cool, even if it's just for just a few minutes" said Lt. Mike Ritchey, unit director of the Regional Auto Crimes Team (ReACT). ReACT is a multi-jurisdictional vehicle crimes task force consisting of officers from the San Antonio Police Department, the Bexar County Sheriff's Office, and the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Drivers who leave their keys in the ignition and their vehicles running while unattended make it easier for car thieves to steal their car. In Texas, an estimated 50 percent of the vehicles stolen use the owner's keys.

"These victim-assisted auto crimes could be prevented simply by taking your keys," said Lt. Ritchey.

If the threat of having your vehicle stolen does not make you take your keys, perhaps knowing this will:

It is illegal for Texas drivers to leave their keys in the ignition or their engine running while unattended. Drivers could face misdemeanor fines up to \$200.

Tomorrow, to promote Watch Your Car ® month, members of the Regional Auto Crimes Team will remind Texas drivers about a law which makes it illegal for drivers to leave their keys in the ignition or their engines running while

unattended. Mock citations will be given to drivers found in violation to help 'drive' home the message.

ReACT will also provide:

- Additional tips to protect citizens and their vehicles.
- Registration into Help End Auto Theft (HEAT)
- Vehicle Identification Number Etching

In the event of rain, VIN Etchings will not be provided.

Questions about this event, please call Michelle Kleiss @ (210) 559-2346.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE